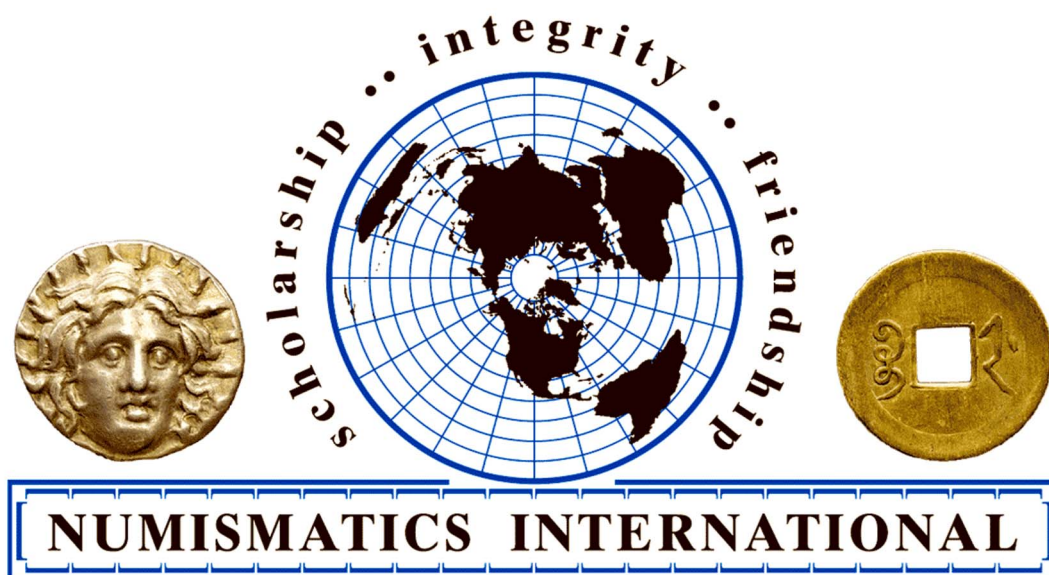


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Numismatics International Bulletin

Volume 51

May / June 2016

Numbers 5 / 6

Ira & Larry Goldberg Coins & Collectibles

Siculo-Punic issue. Silver Tetradrachm ca. 350-320/15 BC..... **54**

Eric C. Hodge

U.K. Merchant Countermarked Dollars c. 1787-1828 **55**

Robert Ronus

A Spanish Royal Couple on a Coin of Milan..... **78**

Numismatica Ars Classica

The Festival of Isis Faria **82**

William Camacho Mendoza

Medal of La Rotonda..... **84**

Current Electronic Gaming Token in Bolivia **87**

Alfred F. Buonaguro

Selected Birmingham Mint Ecuador Proof Coins A Survey of Public Offerings.... **88**

Welcome to the May/June issue of your NI Bulletin with a wide variety of articles. There are many collectors interested in countermarked coins and one of the favorites in my own collection is countermarked. Not too long ago we published a series of articles by Greg Brunk on political countermarks. In this edition first time contributor Eric Hodge offers a most interesting article about UK countermarked dollars. His account helps the reader to understand the origin and purpose of these countermarks. Robert Ronus wrote about a special issue from Milan for King Philip IV of Spain and his bride Maria Anna of Habsburg. Following up on Dale Seppa's *Ecuadorean Coins – An Annotated Checklist*, which was reviewed in the previous edition, Al Buonaguro details citations of Ecuador proofs produced at the Birmingham mint. This should be very informative to collectors of both Ecuador and the Birmingham Mint. From South America we have two articles by William Camacho, the first about medals related to an assassination attempt on Bolivian president General Isidoro Belzu and the second article concerning the current status of video arcade tokens in Bolivia. The remaining articles come from auction houses and I even made a quiz related to one of them.

The “1st International Convention of Historians and Numismatists” is scheduled for October 20-23, 2016 in Potosí, Bolivia. The website already has over 30 international speakers scheduled coming from Spain, France, USA and from all over Latin America; some of them I recognize as NI members.

The summer season of auctions is lining up as we finish out spring. I wish you success in your collecting pursuits and hope you enjoy this edition of your bulletin.

Herman

Siculo-Punic issue. Silver Tetradrachm ca. 350-320/15 BC
Ira & Larry Goldberg Coins & Collectibles



Sicily, Siculo-Punic issue. Silver Tetradrachm (16.8 g), ca. 350-320/15 BC. Uninscribed type. Wreathed head of Arethusa left, wearing triple-pendant earring and necklace. Reverse: Horse galloping right before palm tree. Jenkins series 2d, 122 (O42/R114); BMFA 488 (same dies); SNG Lloyd 1616 (same obv. die); SNG Lockett 1037 (same obv. die); Gulbenkian 363 (same obv. die); Jameson 913 (same obv. die). Excellent metal and wonderful style. (Approximately 24 mm diameter.)

This lovely Carthaginian tetradrachm was struck beginning in about 350/40 BC, thus more or less concurrent with the beginnings of the regular Carthaginian gold staters. The marked increase in Punic coinage at this time, coming after a hiatus of 50 or 60 years, met the needs of the Carthaginian state to pay for military operations on the island. This was specially the case after 344 BC when the Syracusans invited Timoleon of Corinth to become their leader. Timoleon rid Syracuse of the troublesome Dionysios as well as his nemesis, Hiketas I, the tyrant of Leontini, and then re-founded the city and established a democracy. All of this led to a period of Greek revival on the island, which of course led to open conflict with Carthage.

Ira & Larry Goldberg Coins & Collectibles, *The Pre-Long Beach Auction June 3 & 4, 2104 Ancient & World Coins* lot 3254.



What is this Counterstamp?



Answer inside this edition.

U.K. Merchant Countermarked Dollars c. 1787-1828

Eric C. Hodge, NI #2784

During the latter half of the eighteenth century, fluctuations in the gold-silver ratio, coupled with the financial strain of foreign wars, especially during the Napoleonic period, helped to bring on a severe dearth of silver coin in Great Britain. Very few silver coins were minted in the sixty five years between 1751 and 1816.

Production of large quantities of copper coins in 1770-1775, which were more than matched by innumerable imitations of official issues, and private copper tokens from 1787, could not fill all the needs of everyday commerce for coins below the value of the gold denominations.

It was not that there was a shortage of silver, far from it. There were plenty of Spanish American silver dollar sized coins available as bullion. The lack of coins in Great Britain was solely due to the inability of the Royal Mint to afford the purchase of silver for recoinage. By an order issued in 1601 the Mint could only purchase silver at 5s 2d (5 shillings 2 pence—*ed.*) an ounce, way below the then current market value.

A British purchaser selecting half-a-crown's worth of goods in 1790, for example, was faced with the prospect of counting out 60 halfpence (or more in farthings), some of which might be rejected, or of proffering a half-guinea in gold and receiving a miscellaneous collection of 192 halfpenny coins and tokens in change.



Figure 1



Figure 2

To alleviate this situation various semi-official and private expedients were tried.

In 1797 and 1804 the Bank of England released Spanish dollars countermarked with the head of George III. First with a silver mark oval punch (**Fig. 1**) and secondly with a Maundy penny octagonal punch. (**Fig. 2**) Both types were extensively counterfeited and were quickly withdrawn after only a few months in circulation. They were followed by Bank of England five-shilling dollars (**Figs. 3 & 4**) stamped up to 1810, by steam machinery, to obliterate the original Spanish coin, although retaining the 1804 date.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Finally the New Coinage of crowns to sixpences, initiated in 1816-1818, saw the beginning of the end for the desperate need of private silver issues in Great Britain. This is an example of the new crown dated 1818. (Fig. 5)

The earliest and longest-lived attempt to provide a silver medium of exchange during those difficult years was the stamping of private tradesmen's countermarks on Spanish dollars and their fractions. French coins were used for a few issues and occasionally another foreign crown or dollar sized coin was marked.

Weekly quotations were published on the London bullion market, throughout the eighteenth and into the nineteenth century, for Spanish American dollars, so that these could be purchased by any trader for use in his business. To avoid the withdrawal and melting of countermarked tokens, their stamped valuations obviously had to be higher than their bullion value, but not so high as to invite extensive counterfeiting with false punches.



Figure 5

Problems for the issuers arose when the market price fluctuated by more than a few pence. A drop would bring on a flood of demands for redemption of the tokens at their countermarked value. A significant rise would mean the countermarked tokens could be sold, more profitably, back into the bullion market. In either case, the issuer would not want to reissue redeemed tokens at their original countermarked valuation. One solution was melting, another was to re-punch a revised value on the coin (Figs. 11 & 26) and a further option was to cancel the coin countermarked value and issuers name, with either a grille pattern (Fig. 6) or by individual punch marks. (Fig. 36)

Unfortunately these cancellations were sometimes done so enthusiastically that the whole countermark became illegible, and several countermark types are known only by a single, largely undeciphered, specimen.

The following descriptions of some merchant countermarked dollars are hopefully placed in context by a fuller history of their situation in the social and economic background of the issuer's town or place of business, with the need for, and use of, these tokens.

The need for an increased supply of silver coinage was, as has been mentioned, exacerbated by the



Figure 6

Industrial Revolution. That enormous expansion of commercial development fueled by several crucial inventions, including steam powered engines by James Watt and advances in cotton spinning machinery by Richard Arkwright and others. The original steam engines devised by inventors like Newcomen were transformed when James Watt introduced the separate condenser. This allowed the steam to condense in a separate chamber, so that the main cylinder could remain hot between strokes. Raw materials for this expansion, such as coal and iron, were both available in large quantities in England and Scotland, and the third important raw material, cotton, could also easily be obtained from British interests in the New World and other possessions overseas.

So the Industrial Revolution was fueled by invention and raw materials, but another very important factor was also available at this time and that was markets. As British explorers scoured the world in search of new conquests, a vast pool of land and peoples were made available for expansion and exploitation. Ready markets arose for newly produced goods, and it was this demand that led to the incredible rise in production and manufacturing that was the Industrial Revolution.

Increasing industrialization, however, seriously disrupted society. Farmers complained when their laborers left the land to work for more pay in the newly created cities. Many families were dependent on domestic spinning, using small Jennies built in large numbers by local joiners. They were to suffer acutely from the adoption of large scale methods of production, such as Cromton's Mule utilizing larger capacity machines in workshops and factories.

Passions ran high with rioting and selective machine-wrecking. One contemporary report highlights the quick wittedness required of the new entrepreneurs. *"A mob had formed intent on pulling down the cotton works of a Mr. Kay. Mrs. Kay, attended by her servants, met them with a large barrel of ale, and, by mild reasoning, brought the immense crowd to a sense of the folly of breaking the peace of society, and on this they drank her health, prayed God bless her as a good woman, dispersed and went home contentedly."*

Life in the slums could be harsh, brutal and short. The atmosphere surrounding steam engines and in cotton mills was oppressive and dirty, leading to severe respiratory complaints and early death. Working for periods of over twelve hours a day for six days a week, especially for children as young as six years old, produced pale and sickly staff, and gave a life expectancy, at most, of only twenty years. Workers were always dirty and tired. Accidents were common, and drunkenness the norm.

However, bearing all this in mind, the workers still had to be paid. Initially this could be in kind, but this created extra burdens on the employers. Much better to pay in cash and let the workers fend for themselves. Slowly the idea of works' shops (company stores) was created, first to make extra money from the workers, but latterly as a genuine attempt by philanthropic leaders of industry to improve the lot of the lower classes.

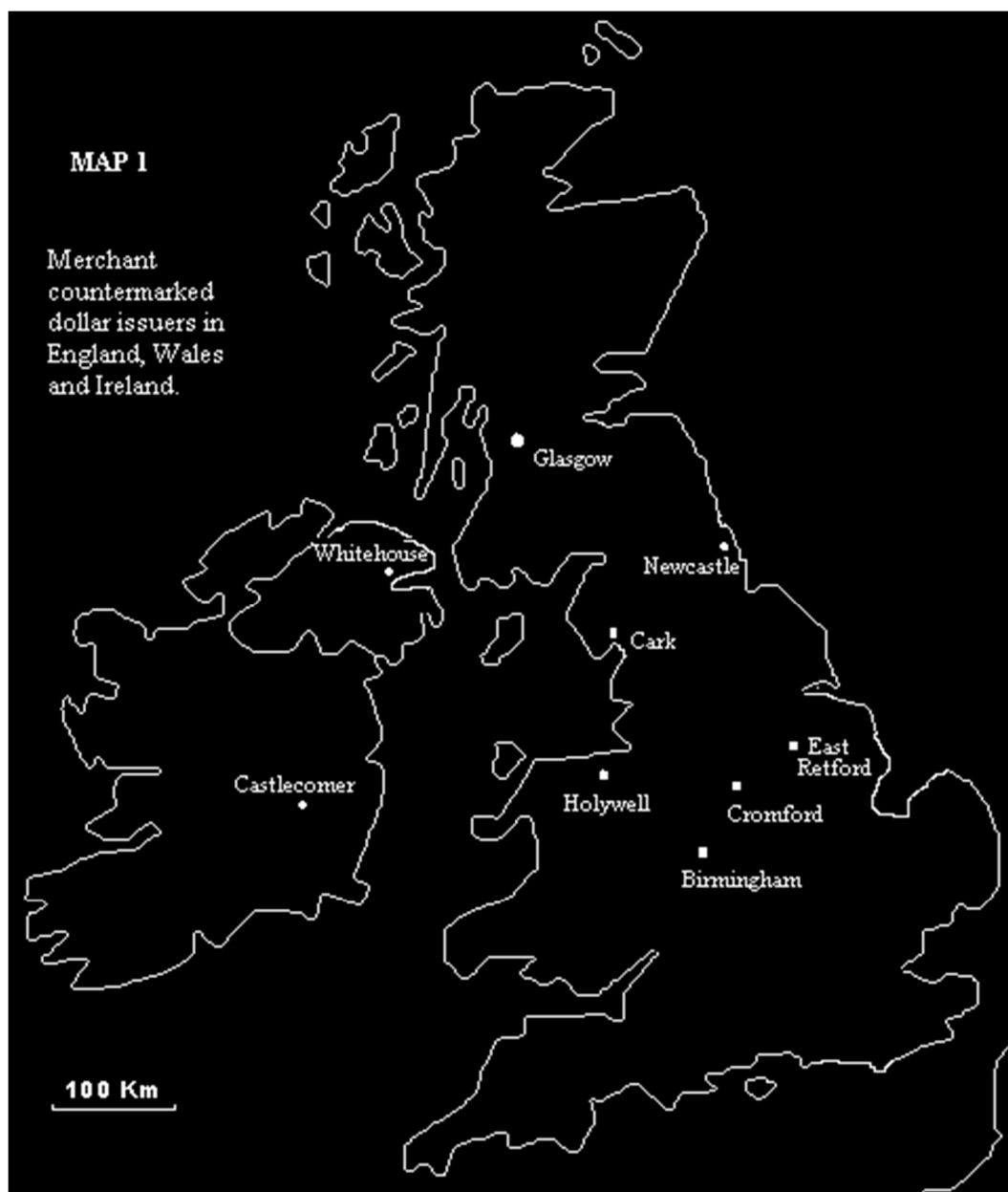


Figure 7

Production of one's own currency, therefore, had its own benefits. One could either tie the worker to one's own shop, or conversely give additional benefits to the employee who used the work's facilities. The countermarked dollars did both. They had their own intrinsic value in the silver, and also a higher value marked on them for use at the works, or as commonly became standard, in the surrounding community that survived from, and supported, local business.

The earliest issues of merchant countermarked dollars are believed to have been in England, (**Fig. 7**) though by far the most prolific issues came from Scotland. (**Fig. 15**) The three English issuers to be discussed now are from East Retford, Cromford and Cark.

East Retford is one of the earliest issues from England and is purely an ampersand with a crown above it. (**Fig. 8**)



Figure 8

There is no mark of value and no indication of the issuer. The details of this issuer would have probably remained unknown, clouded in the mists of time, if it were not for Sir Joseph Banks, botanist, explorer with Captain James Cook and for forty-one years president of the Royal Society. Well, not exactly Sir Joseph but his sister Sarah Sophia Banks. She had a collection of coins, bequeathed to the British Museum on her death, together with note books and manuscripts detailing the coins and their sources. Under the details of the Ampersand & Crown was written "*Spanish dollar stamped for circulation at the Revolution Mill in East Retford Notts 1794*". The date of 1794 being the date she acquired it, being early in the countermarked series.

East Retford, just north of Nottingham, is named after a ford over the river Idle that was tinged by red clay. In 1777 the Chesterfield canal was completed, giving access to the river Trent and beyond.

Major John Cartwright (1740-1824), a well-known political activist, who supported the colonists during the American Revolution and advocated the abolition of slavery,

opened the Revolution Mill in 1788, naming it after the “*Glorious Revolution of 1688*” that had brought William and Mary to the English throne a century earlier. (Maybe that is where the ampersand, joining William & Mary, and the crown marks come from.) John Cartwright’s brother, the Reverend Edmund Cartwright (1743-1823), was the inventor of the power loom and undoubtedly advised on the machinery to be employed at the mill.

Erected at a cost of £25,000 to build and equip, the machines were powered by a Boulton and Watt three horse power steam engine. The mill employed 600 workers in breaking, combing, preparing, spinning, sizing, dressing and winding wool, and included a dye works. The mill failed in 1798 due to labor problems and being overstretched financially.

Apart from about ten known genuine countermarks, punched in front of the bust, there are four counterfeits known with a similar stamp (**Fig. 9**) but much thicker and heavier-looking, stamped on the bust. The counterfeit may have been contemporary, but is believed to be a post Second World War concoction for the collectors’ market.

Another English countermark is one from Cromford in Derbyshire, just south of Sheffield. Sir Richard Arkwright was an influential figure in the development of the English cotton spinning industry. Born to poor parents in Preston Lancashire, Arkwright developed and improved James Hargreaves’s spinning-jenny, which for the first time had enabled one operator to control multiple spindles, by inventing the roller spinning frame, which allowed many more threads to be spun with a certain degree of



Figure 9

as it was believed that his ideas were those of John Wyatt in 1738. Whoever produced the ideas, there is no doubt that it was Arkwright’s business acumen that pushed the technology forward giving an enormous boost to the Industrial Revolution. Eventually Sir Richard was succeeded by his son, also Sir Richard, and it is to the son that can be ascribed the countermarked tokens, as a number are on coins dated after the death of the father. Not only did the Arkwrights build the mill at Cromford, but they also built the town to accommodate their workers. The son was especially keen on enhancing the working and living conditions of his staff and greatly improved the heating and ventilation in his mills.

firmness, thereby allowing the production of all cotton cloth. Previously the cotton had had to be mixed with linen to avoid the threads breaking. Patents were taken out in 1769 and 1775. Arkwright’s first mill was at Nottingham and was worked by horses. Eventually a larger mill with a water wheel was built at Cromford. Sir Richard Arkwright’s later years were taken up by law suits and eventually all his patents were overturned



Figure 10



Figure 11

The surviving countermarks are of two valuations of 4/9 (4 shillings 9 pence) (**Fig. 10**) of which about 57 are known, and 5/- (5 shillings) (**Fig. 11**) which are known on 16 coins. The numbers of all the countermarked series are always approximate because in many instances the early sales catalogues were scant with detail and short on pictures, so it is always possible for coins to re-appear after many years in a collector's cabinet.

My statistics are based on actual photographs in my records plus additional coins I have confirmed. All the Cromford coins are on Spanish American dollars except two 4/9's on French écus. More than half the 4/9 host coins are dated before 1800, and all before 1811, suggesting an issue period from about 1790 to 1810, after which the bullion price of dollars generally remained at or above five shillings until mid-1815. Of the 5/- issues there are at least six where the 5/- punch is believed to be over 4/9 (**Fig. 11**) indicating a sensible re-use of coins and showing that at least some of the 5/-'s came after the 4/9's. It is likely that the 5/- issues were prepared about 1815.



Another English cotton issue is that from the Cark Cotton Works.

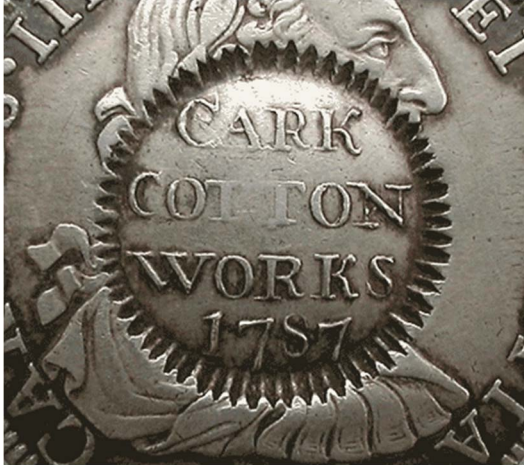


Figure 12

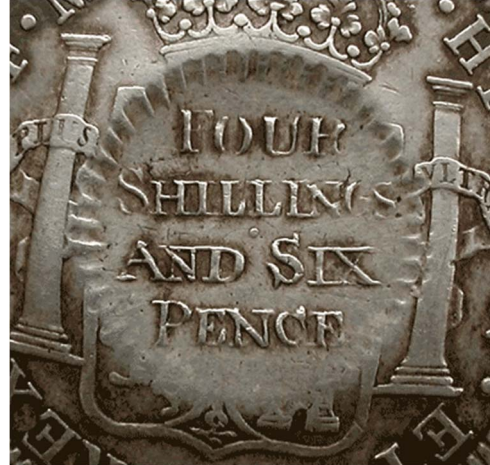


Figure 13

This is an unusual issue as the obverse of the coin has the business name, (**Fig. 12**) whereas the reverse of the coin has the issue value, (**Fig. 13**) and furthermore the value is in words and not numbers, which would tend to indicate an early issue date when new ideas were being tested.

Cark is a small village near Cartmel in the southern Lake District in North West England. In 1785 James Stockdale, a local entrepreneur, with interests in Virginia, North America, cotton plantations in the West Indies, shipping, ship building, mining, blast furnaces, iron forges and other sundry investments, joined up with four other partners and built the five story Cark Cotton Mill. One of Stockdale's business enterprises was the supply of hematite ore, from his Furness mines, to James Watt in Glasgow who was developing his steam engine. It was due to this connection, that in 1786, one of the earliest Boulton and Watt steam engines was installed at Cark to assist in producing a continuous supply of water, to the water wheel, to drive the machines. It was reported that this engine could be heard five miles away! Another local man and the builder of most of the steam engine parts was John Wilkinson the Ironmaster. It was about this time that Wilkinson was using his copper tokens in his works in North Wales. It is surmised that some of these connections led to the Cark Cotton Works obtaining countermarked dollars for use in their business. There are twelve tokens known, all to the value of 4/6. The obverse countermark reads Cark Cotton Works 1787, and as eleven of the tokens are dated 1785 and earlier, with the twelfth dated 1792, it would tend to confirm an early issue up to the mid 1790's. It is presumed that 1787 is the date the tokens were first issued, and ties in very closely with the installation of the first steam engine.



Figure 14

(Fig. 14) On this reverse the six of sixpence seems to be cancelled, reducing the value to 4/-. If this is correct it is the lowest value of any of the circulating dollars in the countermarked series. Even if the silver in the dollar was worth more than 4/- at that time, it may have been very difficult for any owner of the token to exchange it, other than locally.

It is interesting to record that on the 24th of February 1817, Miss Mary Anne Wilkinson, daughter of William who was the brother of the Ironmaster, and niece of James Stockdale II, son of the founder of the Cark Cotton Works, married Matthew Robinson Boulton, son of the great Matthew Boulton, in Cartmel parish church.

The Cark Cotton Mill was eventually sold in 1814, and was used as a grain store until it was burned to the ground in 1935. Cark House, the original home of the Stockdales, still stands to this day. It has now been converted to flats, but remains as a monument to one of the early pioneers of countermarked currency.

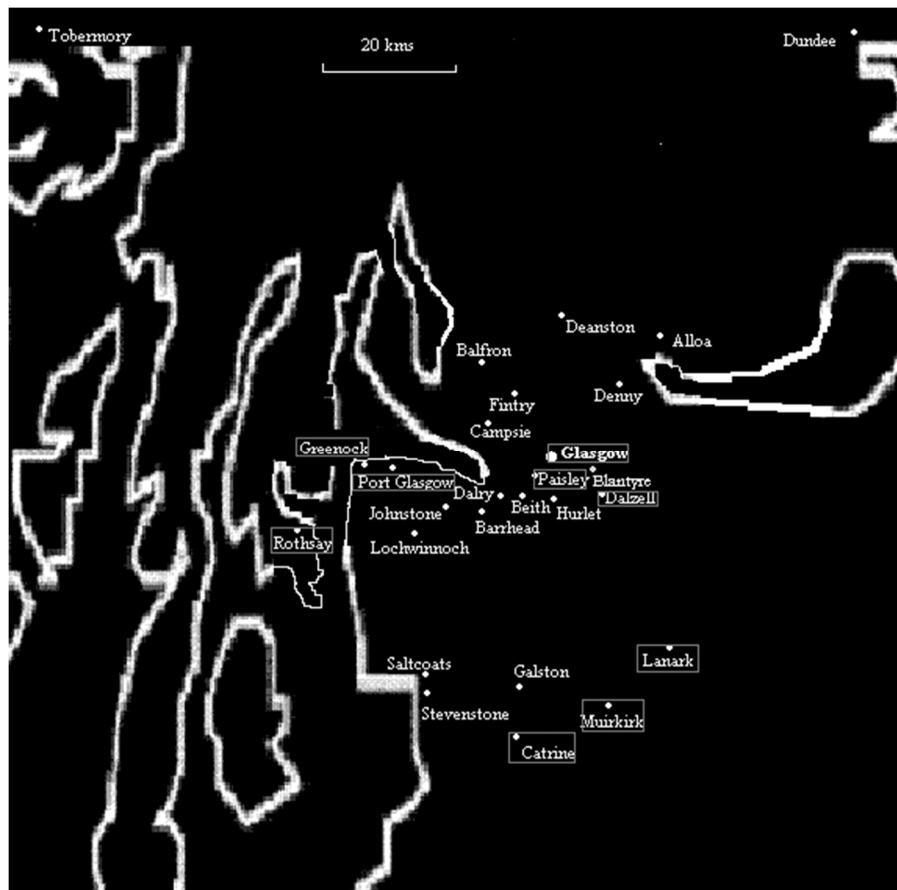


Figure 15

We now travel to Scotland (Fig. 15 and in appendix 15a) to look at a selection of the tokens issued by the burgeoning industrial concerns around Glasgow. One of the biggest of these businesses was the Lanark Mills situated 25 miles south east of Glasgow. New Lanark was a completely new and self-contained village stretching along the river Clyde, in a narrow wooded gorge providing a strong and consistent source of water power, about a mile above the old town. In the 1770's David Dale, a prominent Scottish banker and industrialist, had studied the cotton spinning methods of Sir Richard Arkwright at his Cromford mill. In the 1780's Arkwright visited

Scotland and teamed up with Dale to build the Lanark Mills, using Arkwright's patents and Dale's money. Spinning commenced in 1786. In the following years more mills were built on the site. In the early 1790's William Kelly, at the Lanark Mills, invented a "great gear" which allowed the easier transfer of power from the water wheel to the spinning jennies. This in turn reduced the heavy work required in the mill so allowing the employment of women and children rather than men. Consequently large families were actively recruited, because children could now manage the Jennies while their mothers were employed elsewhere. Dale was a noted philanthropist and advocated free children's education whether they worked at the mill or not. He also provided churches for the mainstream religion and for independents alike. Accommodation, food and washing facilities were all provided at reasonable cost. The workers at the Lanark Mills lived a far superior life than the community outside. That said, the working conditions would still horrify us. All employees, including children, began work at six in the morning, were allowed half an hour for breakfast, an hour for lunch, and finished work at seven at night. The children then attended school until nine. At its height some 2,500 workers lived in New Lanark. In 1799 Dale sold the enterprise to Robert Owen of Manchester who, a few months later, married Dale's eldest daughter. Over the years Owen became an even greater social reformer than his late father in law. He phased out the employment of children aged between five and ten years old, a substantial portion of Dale's work force, and he set up a village store with the profits going to the local school. The price of goods at the village store was very reasonable with Owen passing on his benefits from bulk buying.

The Lanark Mills countermarked tokens are the most prolific in the entire merchant series.

They are known for values of 5/-, (**Fig. 19**) 4/9, 4/6 (**Figs. 17 & 18**) and 2/6. (**Fig. 16**) The 2/6 tokens are on French half-écus. No company records remain to help in the sequencing of the various issues, so it is assumed, from the increasing value of silver bullion throughout most of this period, that the tokens were made in ascending order of value, and this appears justified by comparing the dates of the host coins. However enough of the various tokens remain for it to be evident that special privy marks were also in use, presumably to help control the issues and the accounting for them. This (**Fig. 17**) is the 4/6 value with a star stop and shield with quatrefoil. This value also was issued with a lozenge stop. Here (**Fig. 18**) is a 4/9 with a lozenge stop. It is not known what the shield with quatrefoil represents, as it only appears on the 4/6 value and some of the 2/6 values. The 4/6 marks are made of two punches, one for the named outer ring, and the other for the value. So the same value punch is used for both the star stop and lozenge stop issues. All recorded specimens of the 2/6 denomination have the star stop, whereas all the 4/9 and all but one of the 5/-denominations have the lozenge stop. There are quite a few anomalies with these issues and a lot of further research is still to be done. There are nine known 4/6 issues, eighteen 4/9 issues and about 103 5/- issues. Being the most common issue the 5/- variety seldom rates a proper description or photograph in sales catalogues, so it is quite possible that the same coin is recorded more than once.



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19

Given the nature of the New Lanark community, the Lanark Mills tokens were less likely to be counterfeited than if they had circulated over a wider area. Thus the mill issues need not have been strictly bound by the bullion market price. Moreover from what we know of the philanthropic nature of both Dale and Owen they would probably have been willing to absorb any small losses occasioned by bullion market fluctuations.

From one of the more enlightened industrial employers, let us now move to an industry that probably caused more illness and distress than most during this period of economic advance and that is the Muirkirk Iron Works and their token for 5/6.



Figure 20



Figure 21

There are about six known and they are all stamped on one side with Muirkirk Iron Works 5/6, (**Fig. 21**) and on the other side with a picture showing a forge or foundry with two smoking chimneys between two blast furnaces, and the date 1809. (**Fig. 20**) Five specimens are punched over previous merchant countermarks, three over Lanark Mills 5/-, (**Fig. 20**) as can be seen here, and one each over Catrine Works 5/- and Glasgow Bank 4/9. In each over punching it is the factory view that is stamped over the original mark, on the obverse of the host. The sixth token, not countermarked over a previous mark, has the factory view on the reverse of the host coin. The original coins date from 1793 to 1803, and these dates, together with the conjectured dates of issue of the underlying marks, tend to confirm an issue date of 1809, as shown on the countermark. The value of 5/6 would have remained valid until late 1812 when the bullion price rose above that figure.

Muirkirk is a small village thirty miles south of Glasgow. In 1786 the British Tar Company was formed to manufacture tar, lampblack and varnish from locally dug coal. Not long afterwards ironstone and limestone were found in sufficient quantities to mine and use for iron smelting. Furnaces were constructed in 1787. Additional houses, bridges, canals and reservoirs were built to assist in attracting more labor and ease the transportation problems. By the mid 1790's the Muirkirk Iron Works were fully operational with three large blast furnaces for making pig iron, a forge for bar iron, a foundry and workshop buildings. The iron was of excellent quality due to the low sulphur content of the local coal. All this development was, of course, bought at a price. In the mid 1850's the area was described as 'surrounded by coal-pits and iron works, the land either black heath or blacker clay, destitute of trees and the air perpetually clouded with smoke. This is not a village of the most attractive possible character', and again as "the village, as a place of residence, can be tolerable only by the hardy and prosaic class who actually inhabit it. Its dense envelopment in murky smoke, its deeply dingy or sepulchral tints from coal-pits and furnaces, its unmusical and deafening clang of rude vulcan operations and its environment with a landscape of treeless, heathy, moorland hill, render it to persons of taste and sensitiveness almost the beau ideal of what is disagreeable and dreary." If this was the views of outsiders in the 1850's then

what must it have been like for the inhabitants and workers, many of them women and children, in the late 1790's and early 1800's? The conditions must have been appalling, with long hours of work, minimal rest, very little cleanliness and, certainly, no fresh air and sun.

Why are most of the specimen countermarks known, punched over previous merchant issues? Was there a connection between the industries, so that payment of debts was made in tokens? Were the old tokens purchased on the bullion market? Unlikely if they had not been previously cancelled. Or perhaps it was possible to get more value for money by spending tokens in the Muirkirk shops, thereby attracting labor to the area. The reasons are not known, but the ideas above have some validity. The important factor to bear in mind, however, is that the tokens retained a value whoever marked them and in this case, marked them with a higher value.

As we have discussed, the Industrial Revolution was fueled by a number of factors, but the main factor that oiled it was money. Banks and finance were important ingredients in the overall mix that increased the wealth of the businessmen and owners of the industrial concerns. So it is no surprise to find that two banks issued merchant countermarked dollars. The first was the Thistle Bank (Head Office in Glasgow) formed in 1761 by a number of tobacco lords and continued in business until 1836, when it merged into the Glasgow Union Bank Company. The second was the Glasgow Bank founded in 1809 by a London banking-house. In 1836 the bank merged with the Ship Bank to become the Glasgow & Ship Bank (obviously only a banker could have dreamed that name up), and then merged again in 1843 to become the Union Bank of Scotland and finally in 1955 the Bank of Scotland.

The Thistle Bank countermarked dollars are known in three values, 4/9, 5/- and 6/-. Two separate punches are known for the 4/9 value.

One of these punches (**Fig. 22**) is always used in conjunction with a reverse punch of a thistle. (**Fig. 24**) The other 4/9 punch (**Fig. 23**) was always applied without the reverse thistle. All the 5/- and 6/- punches were applied with a reverse thistle mark, and this thistle was always in the upright position with its flower head at 12 o'clock. However, with the 4/9 value with thistle, the thistle is always sideways with its flower head to 9 o'clock. (**Fig. 24**) The bank's archives record that in 1803 they paid to have a punch engraved for a value of 4/6 but no countermark is known for this amount and it is therefore possible that it was ordered as a precaution against a severe fall in the price of silver, but was never used. There were also adverts in the Glasgow Herald and Advertiser in 1804 warning the public against a number of forgeries of the 4/9 value countermark and stating that if any trader had any doubt about a coin presented to them, they had the right to cut the coin in half before returning it to the offeror, and if more than one were presented then to contact the police. The counterfeits are a brass color and all dated 1792 do not have a reverse thistle, whereas all those dated 1794 (**Fig. 25 "silvered"**) do have a reverse sideways thistle. The approximate number of countermarks known are 6/- one, 5/- ten, genuine 4/9 no reverse thistle thirteen, counterfeit nine, genuine 4/9 sideways thistle fifty three, counterfeit fifteen. There are some examples of the genuine 4/9 reverse thistle coins that have been cancelled with a grille mark on the obverse of the coin.



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25

The Glasgow Bank tokens are fewer in number and variety. There are about three of the 4/9 value and sixteen of the 5/- amount. The strange fact of the Glasgow Bank tokens is that there are no known examples of cancelled marks, other than one which was over stamped by the Muirkirk Iron Works as mentioned previously. Perhaps the redeemed coins were melted straight away or otherwise added to the bank's reserves of bullion.

We have touched upon the cotton industry in Scotland when we talked about the Lanark Mills. There were many other concerns involved with all aspects of cotton spinning and weaving and one of the most interesting, when looked at from the perspective of countermarked dollars, is the Catrine Cotton Works. Catrine had a variety of values, being 6/6 (2), 5/6 (6), 5/• oval (4), 5/ round (3) and 4/9 (11) but the strange and unique factor with these countermarks is that they are all individually numbered. In 1786 Claud Alexander, returning from a lengthy stay in India, decided to exploit the river Ayr which ran through his estate, as a power source for industrial development. In partnership with David Dale, he of Lanark Mill's fame, they built the Catrine Cotton Spinning Works and added workers' houses, a dam, spinning jenny works and

eventually a corn mill driven from the dam water. By late 1796 the twist mill contained over 5,000 spindles and employed 445 persons. Workers accidentally hurt on company business were given free medical care and paid full wages until they recovered. During slack times in the cotton trade, production was maintained and wages paid in full. Alexander cared for his workers providing them with fertilized land to cultivate their own crops at minimal rent. He even built a brewery and introduced local beer in place of whisky, a project fully approved of by the local minister.

In 1801 the works were sold to Kirkman Finlay amongst others, and he appointed Archibald Buchanan, who had learned his trade as an apprentice under Richard Arkwright at the Cromford Mills, and then worked at the Ballindalloch Cotton Works, another countermarked dollar issuer, as manager at Catrine. The works were enlarged and power looms installed in 1805. By 1837 Buchanan was resident partner and the works employed over 900 persons.



Figure 26



Figure 27

The estimated order of issue of the countermarks are 4/9, 5/• oval, 5/6 punched over 4/9, (**Fig. 26**) 6/6 and 5/ round (punched over 6/6). However even though the marks are individually numbered, these do not appear to be in any overall sequence, certainly not in the order of issue. It is possible that each value issue was numbered as separate sequences. The 5/- issue is also interesting because there are two types, one in an oval and one in a circle. The oval shape (**Fig. 27**) is also odd because in all three legible specimens the stop after the five appears to be over a scraped area, which seems to have originally had a three. No Catrine tokens are known for 5/3, so the punch may have been altered to 5/- before any were struck. The fourth oval 5/- has been over stamped by Muirkirk Iron Works so it is not possible to see the original value, though the original number 1149 can be read. This value (**Fig. 26**) of 5/6 over 4/9 is numbered 1811. The lowest number in the series is 471, on 5/ round, with the highest being 4826, on 4/9. However there are two tokens numbered 50.32 and 50.67. Both of these tokens have what appears to be partially re-punched numbers after the first two digits. So these two coins only cast a further shadow over an already confused issue well worth a lot of further research, especially if more examples come to light.

Another Scottish cotton concern that issued countermarked dollars was the Rothsay Cotton Works. Rothsay lies about forty miles southwest of Glasgow at the head of a bay on the Island of Bute. An English engineer, James Kenyon of Sheffield, moved to Scotland to evade Richard Arkwright's patent on his water frame. In 1779 he not only opened his new mill but employed ex Arkwright employees that he had lured away with him. In 1785 Kenyon sold the works to David Dale (he again of Lanark Mills,) who expanded the operation before again placing it on the market five years later. By 1815 the works were owned by William Kelly and Robert Thom. Kelly had been David Dale's manager at Lanark Mills and carried on the labor relations systems he had learned from there.

The Rothsay Mills tokens are quite varied and unusually this was the only concern that countermarked cut Spanish dollars to the values of 2/6, (**Fig. 28**) 2/4 and 1/8. (**Fig. 29**) There were twelve pennies in a shilling, so a crown or five shillings was worth 60 pence. One third of a crown was therefore worth twenty pence or one shilling and eight pence. The dollars were marked in two denominations of 5/- and 4/6. Only one of the 5/- value is known, now with the Birmingham City Museum. The 4/6 values are found in two distinct forms, one (**Fig. 30**) with a small privy mark punch below the shield on the reverse (**Fig. 31**) and the other without this mark. Approximately 48 coins of the 4/6 are known with the privy mark, but only about seven without that mark. This mark can be seen here, (**Fig. 31**) as a dot, at the base of the shield, and is assumed to have been placed there to identify genuine countermarks. The obverse 4/6 countermark reads "Rothsay Cotton Works 4/6 1820". (**Fig. 30**) This date would suggest that 1820 was the date of issue, though there are a couple of host coins dated 1821, which perhaps indicates an issue period spanning a few years.



Figure 28



Figure 29



Figure 30



Figure 31

Fig. 15 shows a large scale map of the environs around Glasgow, with some of the names highlighted, that we shall encounter. The first of these is another interesting and distinctive countermark, that of Robert Crighton Port Glasgow 4/6, because this is the only punch in the entire countermark series where the lettering on the outer ring is incuse.

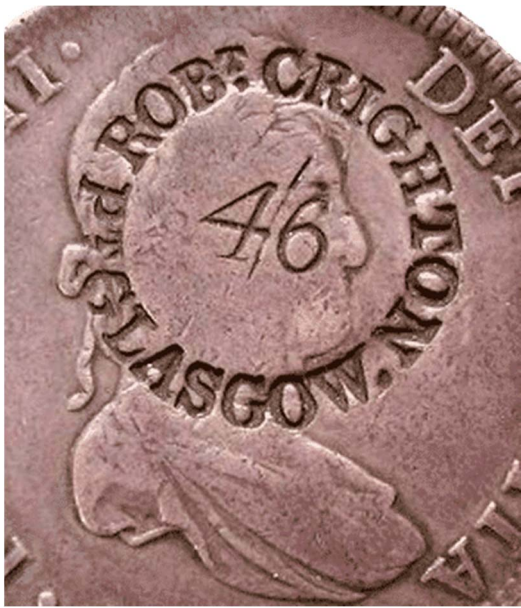


Figure 32



Figure 33

(**Fig. 32**) Further, the reverse of all the nine known coins have a privy mark of a small curved rope design, (**Fig. 33**) which is aligned to the upper curve of the Spanish crown. The research into the issuer of this token has found that a Robert Crighton in Port Glasgow is listed as a grocer. The only Robert Crighton recorded as having had land dealings in this area between 1781 and 1840 was also a grocer listed as the son and heir of Adam Crighton, sail maker at Port Glasgow, who inherited land on King Street and Lyons Lane in 1823. It seems safe to assume that these Robert Crightons are the same person. Crighton & Co. are listed as general grocers and wine and spirit merchants on King Street and Lyons Lane until 1837.

A further example of a merchant with an unusual countermark is that of William Langmuir of Paisley.



Figure 34



Figure 35

About sixteen of these marks are known which show on the obverse punch (**Fig. 34**) “Payable by W. Langmuir” around the standing figure of a bishop with mitre and crosier, with small shields of arms on either side. William Langmuir is first recorded as a miller in 1810, a grain dealer in 1813 and a flour factor in 1816. In 1820 and 1821 William Langmuir and Sons were grain merchants. It seems unlikely that there would have been two grain merchants with the same name in the same town at the same date, so one can safely assume the references are all to the same person.

The reverse of these tokens (**Fig. 35**) is also marked with “Paisley Dollar Society” around 5/3 within an ornate wreath. No Paisley Dollar Society has been found in any of the directories consulted, so it may have been formed by William Langmuir himself but was too short lived to warrant a record in the registers. However, this countermark is one of the most elaborate in the whole series. The design of the bishop on the obverse is believed to represent the town arms for Paisley. About half of the examples are grille cancelled on the reverse, presumably indicating redemption in a falling bullion market, so that they could not be presented again.

Another countermark using both an obverse and a reverse mark was that for J. Muir manufacturer Paisley.



Figure 36



Figure 37

(**Fig. 36**) The reverse mark (**Fig. 37**) was the Prince of Wales feathers bearing the motto Ich Dien (I serve). With such a common Scottish name it is difficult to allocate this mark with ease. It is, however, the case that of a number of J. Muirs, some John and some James, worked as plaid merchants and shawl and muslin manufacturers round about the same time. It is therefore quite likely that they were related and probably shared the issue of the tokens. Maybe too, the reverse mark of the Prince of Wales feathers was somehow linked to the designs used in the plaid or shawl businesses, because in the New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary for 1993, Paisley is defined as “a soft woollen material with a distinctive pattern of curved feather-shaped figures.”

There are about nineteen of these coins known and at least twelve of them have been cancelled, but with different cancellation marks. Some are cancelled with the normal grille pattern, whilst others are marked with digs or controlled pear shaped punches, (**Fig. 36**) maybe towards the end of the issue when many more were being returned.

We have already seen one countermark from a grocery business, that of Robert Crichton. Another is from the firm of MacFie Lindsay & Co. Greenock, (**Fig. 38**) listed as being in the wholesale trade between 1815 and 1834.



Figure 38



Figure 39

The company was noted for inventing, and subsequently perfecting, a method of preserving fresh salmon. There are known about twenty nine tokens of 4/6. One of these coins is severely double-struck; (**Fig. 39**) a very rare occurrence in the tradesmen's countermarked series. About half of the coins are dated between 1814 and 1818, strongly suggesting that the dollars were obtained about 1819 or 1820. This would imply an issue date of around the early 1820's, several years before their withdrawal, as reported in the Greenock Advertiser of the 29th August 1828 as, "the subscribers will thank those persons holding the Spanish dollars issued by them at 4/6 to send them in to their place of business as early as convenient to be exchanged, silver being now so plenty that they are no longer required for the convenience of trade. MacFie (*sic*) Lindsay & Co."

Another 4/6 token from the Greenock area is that countermarked J. McK & Son Greenock.

(**Fig. 40**) This is quite a common type with about thirty seven known coins. The interesting fact about this issue is that it possesses the latest dated coin for any of the countermarked dollar series at 1827. In Greenock in the 1820's there were several possible issuers of this token, though none listed as father and son. However there was a John McKelvie listed as a grocer and spirit dealer in 1831, and a John McKelvie junior listed in the same year as a wholesale grocer and tea dealer, and they must be strong candidates for the issuers of this token. In 1834 the son assumed



Figure 40

responsibility for his father's grocery and spirit business whilst continuing with his own enterprise.

At least some of the countermarked dollars must have been issued by 1825, when two were found on the body of a man drowned off Greenock. The issuing period of these tokens was most likely to have been from the early 1820's until at least 1827.

There are, of course, coins that have been cancelled (**Fig. 6**) and to which it is very difficult to allocate an issuer.



Figure 41



Figure 42

Here we have an example which can be allocated, fairly accurately, (**Fig. 42**) due to other similar countermarks that have not been cancelled, (**Fig. 41**) and the ability to read just one or two letters and compare their size, form and spacing to known issues.

The merchant is believed to be T&R Arthur Glasgow. Thomas and Robert Arthur were muslin manufacturers. There are about ten host coins known, and all but one is cancelled. On **Fig. 42** the size of the original marks can be compared, also the letters GLAS can be seen at 12 o'clock. They are the same size and spaced in the same way as the clearer coin. This coin has also been countermarked with the crowned GP of the Portuguese Azores in 1887, indicating that the original mark and cancellation were before that date.

This last example of a merchant countermarked dollar is neither a merchant, nor is it a dollar, and yet it sits perfectly happily with all the previous coins. This is Dalzell Farm and it is countermarked on a French écu or five-franc host.

(**Fig. 43**) This token was issued by a private individual, James Hamilton the owner of the Dalzell estate, about thirteen miles southeast of Glasgow and twelve north of Lanark. The Hamilton family greatly improved their holdings during the eighteenth century, reclaiming land and planting forest and fruit trees. They also took an interest in their tenants by guaranteeing continuing leases so that the farmers took a real interest in the land they were cultivating. During the Napoleonic Wars, Dalzell Farm more than doubled its orchard area to help meet demands of local markets.



Figure 43

In 1814, Archibald James Hamilton, a Lieutenant in the 4th Dragoons, returned home after seeing service in Portugal, Spain and France during the Peninsular War. He was recalled to Belgium the following year, and rode with the Royal Scots Greys at Waterloo before coming home again on sick leave and retiring on a half-pay pension in 1816. Impressed with the farming methods he had observed in Belgium, and with the helpful advice of Robert Owen, from Lanark Mills, whom he had met in 1816, Hamilton introduced some of the continental innovations on his farm. The twenty seven known Dalzell Farm

countermarks, are all on French écus or five-franc pieces, the latest being dated 1815. The countermark is one outer ring showing the name, however it is always around the 5 of 5 franc and so, not unreasonably, it is assumed that this is to indicate the value at 5/-.

It is virtually certain that Hamilton brought the coins back from France and Belgium. The example here (**Fig. 43**) is dated l'an 5, or the fifth year of the revolution, being 1796/7, and is mint marked Q being Perpignan.

We have covered quite some ground in this article, touching not only on the numismatic aspects of these countermarks, but also the historic, geographic, social and probably most importantly, the industrial reasons for their issue.

They served a vital link between the industrialists, manufacturers and business men, and the local communities in which they operated and also that they served.

It required a set of most unusual circumstances for them to exist. These, in turn, allowed the countermarked coins to flourish.

It required war, it required inventions, it required raw materials, it required men of vision, it required great markets, it required large labor forces, but most of all and truly most bizarrely, it required the inability of the Royal Mint to coin silver because of an edict dated 1601 that forbade it to purchase silver at more than 5/2 an ounce.

Upon such small matters can history be made.

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Appendix

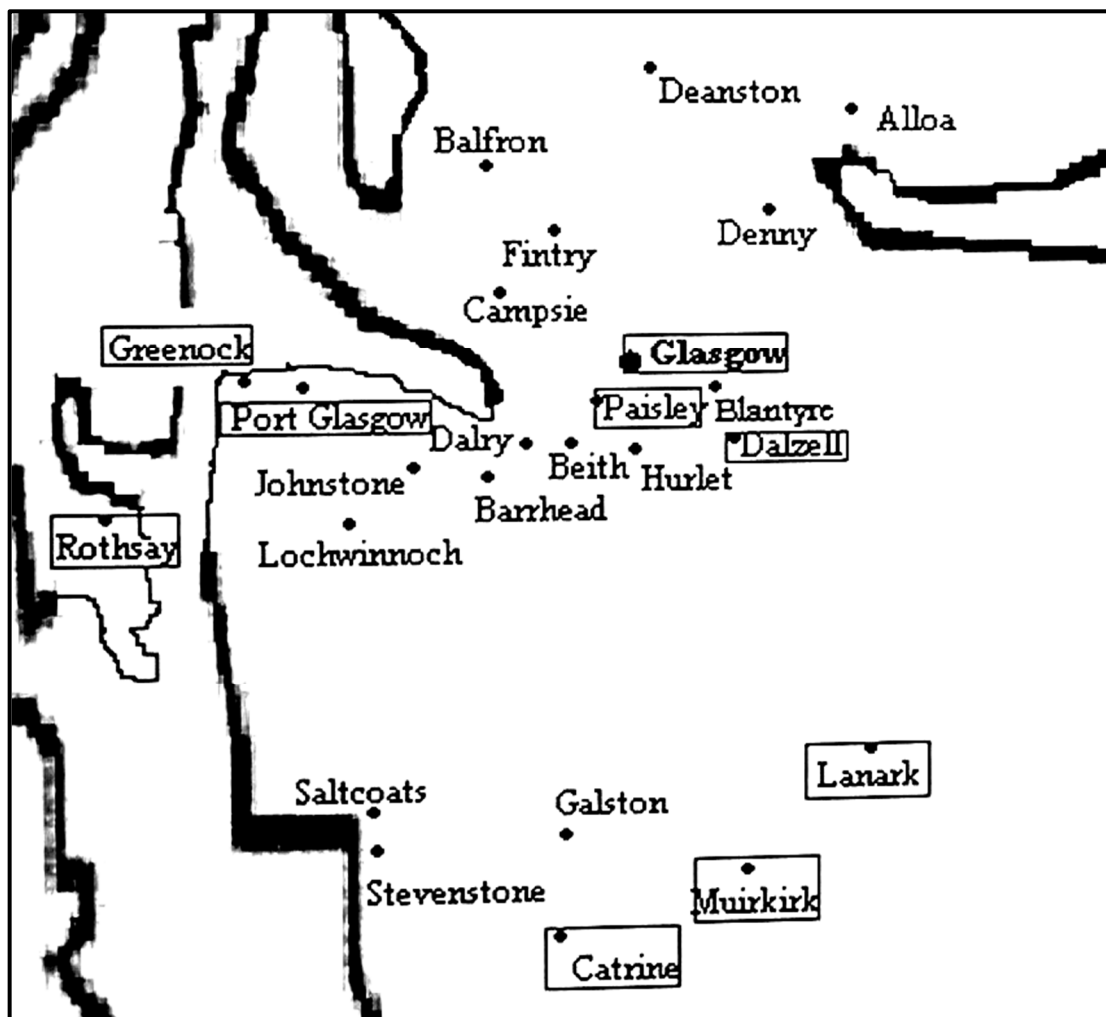


Figure 15a (enlarged view of figure 15)

NI

A Spanish Royal Couple on a Coin of Milan

Robert Ronus, NI #LM139



The leading Italian numismatic firm of Nomisma, based in the little independent republic of San Marino, had a rare 1/2 filippo coin featuring Philip IV of Spain and his wife Maria Anna of Austria, in their 500 Rarities auction in October 2014. Here is a detailed description:

Obv.: • PHILIPP • III • HISP • RE • ET • MED (iolani = of Milan) • DVC •. Crowned bust of king right with lion's face on shoulder, in circle, in exergue: • CARACENA • / • GVBERN • / line. Rev.: • MARIAE • ANNAE • PHILIP • III • HISP • ETC • REG • VX (or = wife) • Crowned bust left, below in legend 1649. AR 37 mm 13.18 g. CNI V, p. 349, 219. Crippa 35/B. Coll. Gnechi 3091.

For most of history women were allowed to play little or no role in government. If they did, it was behind the scenes. In medieval and early modern Europe, the main purpose of women from noble families was to be married off to someone they rarely knew as part of a political alliance or to bring land to their family and then produce a male heir, however many dangerous pregnancies that might take.

This is reflected in the coinage where portraits of women rarely appear. There are notable exceptions, from Elizabeth I of England to Catherine the Great of Russia, but they are very much the minority. Coins with the busts of a married couple are even rarer. William and Mary, who ruled jointly in England from 1688-1694, and the beautiful Tyrol single and multiple talers of Archduke Leopold V struck for his marriage to Princess Claudia di Medici come to mind but they are unusual.

Philip IV inherited a huge empire from his father, Philip III, spanning the known world: Spain (then divided into the kingdoms of Castile, Aragon, Valencia and Portugal and the autonomous provinces of Catalonia and Andalusia), the Spanish Netherlands (roughly equivalent to modern Belgium), in Italy Naples, Milan and some smaller territories and, of course, the enormous Spanish Empire in the Americas.

Producing an heir to this empire was of the greatest importance. In 1615, at the age of 10, Philip was married to 13-year-old Elisabeth of France, Philip had seven children by Elisabeth, but only one son, Balthasar Charles, who died at the age of sixteen in 1646. The death of his son deeply shocked the king, who appears to have been a good father by the standards of the day. Elisabeth died in 1644.

Philip still needed an heir. Keen to strengthen his relationship with Habsburg Austria, he chose as his second wife his 14 year old niece, Maria Anna, the daughter of the Emperor Ferdinand. In 1646, at the age of 11, she had actually been engaged to Philip's son, her cousin Balthasar Charles. However, he died only three months later. With Balthasar Charles's death, Philip IV was left without a male heir and Maria Anna without a fiancé.

The marriage took place by proxy. Maria Anna then set off from Vienna for Madrid, via Italy. This brings us back to the coin. Maria Anna made her solemn entrance to Milan on 17 June 1649. To celebrate the occasion the Governor of Milan, a Spanish nobleman with the impressively titled name of Don Luigi de Benavides Carillo e Toledo, marquis of Fromista e Caracena (hence the word in the exergue), count of Punac, lord of the towns of Yues, San Munoz e Matilla, knight of the Order of San Giacomo, *commendatore* of Gnamachiucco, gentleman of the Chamber, struck these half filippi. Presumably they were distributed to dignitaries. CNI lists 6 different varieties with very minor differences in spelling and punctuation. There cannot have been many struck since they are extremely rare. Presumably the die cutter worked from a picture.

After Maria Anna's arrival in Spain, she and Philip had a proper wedding ceremony on 7 October 1649 in Navalcarnero, near Madrid, and spent their wedding night at El Escorial. From then on, she went by her name in Spanish, Mariana.

Mariana and Philip's marriage produced five children but only two lived into adulthood. Their first child was Margarita Theresa, who was born on 12 July 1651; just as her mother did, she went on to marry her maternal uncle Leopold I, Holy Roman Emperor. In 1655, Mariana then had another daughter, Maria Ambrosia de la Concepción; she only lived fifteen days. During this time, there were those at court who wanted Philip officially to name his eldest daughter by his first marriage, Maria Theresa, as his heir, as she was already heir presumptive according to Spanish tradition. Mariana began feeling the pressure to have a son. Eventually, her first son, Philip Prospero, was born on 28 November 1657, who was joyously received. She then gave birth to the Infante Ferdinand Thomas in 1658, but he died a year later in 1659. Sadly,

Philip Prospero died in 1661. But that same year, Mariana gave birth to her last child, a son; he was named Charles and was born on 6 November.

Unfortunately the dangers of the inbreeding favored by the Habsburgs manifested themselves in Charles, who was born physically and mentally disabled. He was unable to chew, his tongue was so large that his speech could barely be understood, and he frequently drooled. Charles II is known in Spanish history as *El Hechizado* (“The Hexed”) from the popular belief—to which Charles himself subscribed—that his physical and mental disabilities were caused by “sorcery.” The king went so far as to be exorcised.

Mariana died in 1696. Both she and Philip IV (and their children) were painted by Velázquez but she never appeared on a Spanish coin. However, she did appear again on coins of Milan and Naples.

Charles II was only 4 when he succeeded his father. Until he was 15 he reigned under the regency of his mother, Mariana. In Milan coins of various denominations were struck in 1666 and 1675 in the name of them both with their accolated busts. Here is a Filippo of 1666:



Hervera 15-October-2015 lot 558

Obv.: CAROLVS • II • HISP • REX • ET • MARIA • ANNA • TVT • E(T) G ★ (= tutor and governor). Accolated busts r., below •1666 •.

Rev.: ★ MEDIOLANI ★ _ ★ DVX ★ ET ★ C ★. Crowned multi-field arms of Castile (castle) & Leon (lion rampant) qtrd., Aragon (vertical bars) & Aragon-Sicily (vertical bars with 2 eagles) with Granada pomegranates along the bottom, Austria (horizontal bar), modern Burgundy (filed of lis), ancient Burgundy (diagonal bars) and Brabant (lion) qtrd. with 3 escutcheons with arms of Portugal (cross of 5 shields in bordure of 7 castles), of the Empire (eagle) & Milan (biscione, the curled snake) qtrd., of Flanders (lion rampant) & Tyrol (eagle) divided, in ornamental frame. AR 27.75 g. CNI V, p. 350,4. Crippa 2. Dav. 4004. Olivares Abad 277. Coll. Gnechi 3104.

Incidentally, Spain had actually lost Portugal in 1640 but the arms appear on Spanish coins until well into the reign of Charles II—but let me not get diverted.

Mariana also appeared with her son in accolated busts on a ducato, half ducato and a tari of another Spanish possession in Italy, Naples. Here is the ducato:



CNI XX plate XVI number 7

Obv.: CAROLVS • II • D • G • HISPANIAR • ET • NEAP • ET • C • REX Accolated busts r., below in exergue • 1674 • AH (uncertain mint master, perhaps Arina Amerani.).

Rev.: • ET • MARIAN • EIVS • _ • MATER • REGN • GVB (= his mother, regent, governor). Crowned multi-field arms of Castile (castle) & Leon (lion rampant) qtrd., Aragon (vertical bars) & Jerusalem (cross), Austria (horizontal bar), modern Burgundy (lis), ancient Burgundy (diagonal bars) and Brabant (lion rampant) qtrd. and Aragon-Sicily (vertical bars with 2 eagles) & Hungary (horizontal bars), with escutcheon with arms of Flanders (lion rampant) & Tyrol (eagle) divided, in sprays, breaking out of circle. AR 44 mm. 26.89 g. CNI XX, p. 473, 5 (Pl. XVI, 7). Dav. 4044. MIR 286. Pan./Ricc. 1.

The size of Charles' bust is much closer to that of his mother than in the Milan coins, reflecting his greater age—13 instead of 5—but she is still clearly in charge.

Mariana and Charles were not the only mother and son on Italian coins in this period. In Savoy Maria Giovanna Battista of Savoy-Nemours was regent for her son Vittorio Amadeo II from 1675-80 and coins were struck with their accolated busts, with the mother being the larger of the two (Dav.4171). But let me not get diverted again.

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Velázquez image of Mariana:

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Wikipedia: articles on Philip IV and Maria Anna



The Festival of Isis Faria Numismatica Ars Classica



Julian II, 360-363. Medallion, Æ 4.05 g. DN FL CL IVLI – ANVS P F AVG Pearl-diademed, and cuirassed bust l., holding Victory on globe and shield decorated with she-wolf and twins motif; in r. field, Gonzaga eagle. Rev. VOTA – PVBLICA Isis and Serapis, facing each other and both with a snake body, holding a vase from which emerges a snake. C 114. Alföldi 68 and pl. II, 19 (this coin illustrated). Extremely rare and an issue [of] tremendous interest and fascination. An interesting portrait and a dark brown patina. The flan partially restored on the bottom part of it, otherwise good very fine. Ex Rollin et Feuarent, 14-26 May 1888, de Quelen 2188; Gilhofer &

Ranschburg-Hess, 22 May 1935, Trau 4360, and Sternberg XXXIII, 1997, 384 sales. From the Gonzaga, de Quelen and Trau collections.

The reverse of this interesting Festival of Isis of Julian II medallion shows the husband-wife siblings Serapis and Isis with serpentine bodies, holding between them a large, sacred vase from which emerges a uraeus-snake. The snake is clearly flat-headed, which suggests that it is a cobra, an extremely venomous serpent native to Egypt and which was closely associated with the goddess as amongst all beings only she held the antidote to its venom. The serpentine bodies of the two gods are an unusual feature, but should be construed as dually representing both their chthonic, or underworld, natures, as well as their roles in guaranteeing bountiful harvests. Isis is frequently represented in classical art in the company of serpents (see, e.g., the frescos from Pompeii in the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli, inv. nos. 8929 and 9558, the latter of which shows Isis holding a cobra with its body entwined around her forearm), and although we lack specific knowledge of the rituals associated with Isiaic worship—our only account of them is the fictitious work, *Metamorphoses* (or *The Golden Ass*), by the second century AD author Apuleius—they had to do with death and rebirth, and are putatively related to the Christian concept of ascension. Interestingly, many scholars have also noted the syncretistic nature of the frequently seen image of Isis nursing Horus to that of the Virgin Mary holding the infant Christ.

Of further interest is the small eagle inset in an oval behind the head of Julian on the obverse, which shows that this medallion was at one time in the collection of the Gonzaga family of Mantua in Italy. The collection was first formed under the guidance of Isabella d'Este (1474-1539), a humanist and trendsetter of the times who was deeply committed to the arts and had been educated in the classics—and, very interestingly, has recently been identified as a plausible candidate for Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* (see Frank Zöllner, *Leonardo da Vinci—Sämtliche Werke*, 2007, p. 241)—and was further built upon by her descendants. The mark was applied to all of the coins in the collection by the early 17th century, usually in silver for gold coins, and in gold for silver and bronze. Although some or all of the coin collection may have been sold to pay off family debts, whatever remained was certainly looted in 1630 during the sack of Mantua by imperial Landsknecht forces who pillaged the city over the course of three days. Afterwards, coins from the collection appeared in all of the major coin cabinets of Europe. Although they are rare, coins with the Gonzaga mark still occasionally come up for sale on the coin markets of today, and conveniently provide proof of a pedigree to the early 1600s at the latest if not to the original collection formed by Isabella d'Este herself.

Reprint with permission Numismatica Ars Classica, Zurich, Auction 92 - Part I, lot 766, 23-24 May 2016.

NI

Medal of La Rotonda

William Camacho Mendoza



Figure 1

**Silver, diameter 37.5 mm, 25.8 g
Cayón Subastas 13 December 2007 lot 796**

On the fateful 6th of September of 1850, the president of the republic, General Isidoro Belzu found himself walking his horse alongside his aide-de-camp and Colonel Manuel Laguna after the traditional 4 pm Creole meal; they were on their way to the mall of Sucre.

Agustín Morales, a military man of the time, later president Bolivia, who had demanded an indemnification that was not successful despite the friendship forged in the heat of many battles, decides to impart an unerring blow of vengeance, taking advantage of that custom of the presidential walk, and thus it is that when General Belzu and his companions had distanced themselves to the point where they were at the creek that was at the end of the meadow, near an Indian village, Agustín Morales and two of his university students, Siñani and Sotomayor, who had been flogged in the seminary of Sucre by one of the prefects of the regime, attacked the presidential retinue by surprise in a hail of bullets, General Belzu falling gravely wounded.

Morales and his students, thinking their attack successful, go to the barracks announcing that the “tyrant is dead.” For this failed attack upon the life of General Belzu, Morales was pursued by the government and had to flee to Argentina.

The assault left General Belzu in a grave state from the bullet wounds received, and he was supposedly saved by his scapulary of the Virgin of Carmen, to whom he was devoted. Recovered from his wounds, the leader ordered the erection of a temple at the scene of the attack, which, due to its shape was called *la Rotonda* (the roundabout). Originally the church, of great architectural beauty, in imitation of the chapel of *San Pietro in Montorio* in Rome, was located at the end of the meadow, but later was moved to the site it occupies presently.

In the national mint of Potosí, General Belzu caused medals to be struck in silver equivalent to 8 sueldos in 1852 (Fig. 1). On its obverse Fame is depicted flying over clouds playing a trumpet which carries a ribbon with the inscription *VIVA BOLIVIA* (Long Live Bolivia). The left hand holds a laurel crown that surrounds the inscription *EL JRAL. BELZU* in two lines. The peripheral legend reads *EL DEPARTAMENTO DE POTOSI EN 1852* (The Department of Potosí in 1852).

On the reverse one sees la Rotonda haloed with rays of light surrounding the legend *AL SER SUPREMO QUE SALVO BOLIVIA* (TO THE SUPREME BEING WHO SAVED BOLIVIA) and in exergue *EN 6 D. SETIEMBRE DE 1850* (On 6 of September of 1850).



San Pietro in Montorio (Rome)



Figure 2

Bronze, diameter 20.1 mm, 3.8 g
Cayón Subastas 13 December 2007 lot 808

Also silver medals of 2 sueldos were struck with a diameter of 26 mm and medals of 1 sueldo measuring 20 mm with the variant of the word *STBRE* abbreviated. There is another medal double-struck in the date 1850/2, a medal without a line in the exergue, and various mules exist in their various sizes, and lastly an exquisite trial medal in copper of 1 sueldo (Fig. 2.).



Figure 3
Silver, 42×32 mm, 37.0 g
Cayón Subastas 13 December 2007 lot 663

One medal is known struck in silver in the national mint at Potosí, awarded to doctor Pedro Ascarrunz who, together with four other doctors rendered aid and attended the wounds of General Isidoro Belzu for several agonizing days, saving his life (Fig. 3).

On the obverse of the medal the legend reads *EL MINIST(ER)O EJECUT(IV)O AL PROF(ESO)R DE MEDIC(IN)A Y CIRUJ(I)A PEDRO ASCARRUNZ*, (THE EXECUTIVE MINISTRY TO PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY PEDRO ASCARRUNZ), bust of Belzu looking to the left.

On the reverse of the medal: *EN PREMIO DE SUS SERVICIOS AL PRESIDENTE CONSTITUCIONAL DE BOLIVIA* (IN REWARD FOR HIS SERVICES TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT OF BOLIVIA), Aesculapius standing.

By decree of the Council of Ministers of the 6th of October of 1850, these five doctors were awarded gold medals of fine manufacture for their services rendered to Tata Belzu (Father Belzu) as he was affectionately called. The medal depicted above is possibly a facsimile of the gold medals granted to these doctors.

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Current Electronic Gaming Token in Bolivia

William Camacho Mendoza

In these days of high technology and fast-paced world we live in, it is difficult to imagine that there still exists an electronic gaming establishment where tokens are still necessary to play the gaming machines.

The children and adolescents of this age possess the latest cellphones and tablets, all of which are loaded with an endless array of games with the facility of accessing them in any place and at any time without limitations, so it already seems a bit antiquated to visit an electronic gaming parlor.

Located in a shopping and entertainment center in the city of Quillacollo, one finds a gaming establishment, perhaps the last of its kind, with the name Game Station, a branch of the headquarters in the city of Santa Cruz, along with another branch in Montero. The parlor offers a variety of electronic games for the delight of the gamers. All of the machines in the house are operated with the tokens that concern us.



Copper-nickel, 24 mm, 6.0 grams

The token that we present on this occasion was launched for use in the year 2014. It is struck in copper-nickel in China for its low cost and the useful life embodied in striking huge quantities of these tokens. The elaborate designs on the token are manufactured with a retro touch, which makes us relive the boom of the gaming houses (*tilines*)* that revolutionized the '80s in Bolivia.

Oh what nostalgia it brings us to remember those gaming houses, MonteCarlo, Delta, Videolandia, Euforia, Pacmania and Beta where we spent hours with our friends playing Space Invaders, Missile Command, PinBall, Pacman and other classic games, memorable moments when the almost obligatory get-together with your friends was at a gaming house in Prado in those days when no cellphones existed, much less the addiction to Facebook. Among the gaming houses that still operated at the end of the '90s were: As De Oro and Momey Money, among others.

Tilin (singular), *tilines* (plural) is the popular name by which these electronic machine gaming houses were known, due to the little bell-like sounds (*tilines*) these machines produced when they were operated.

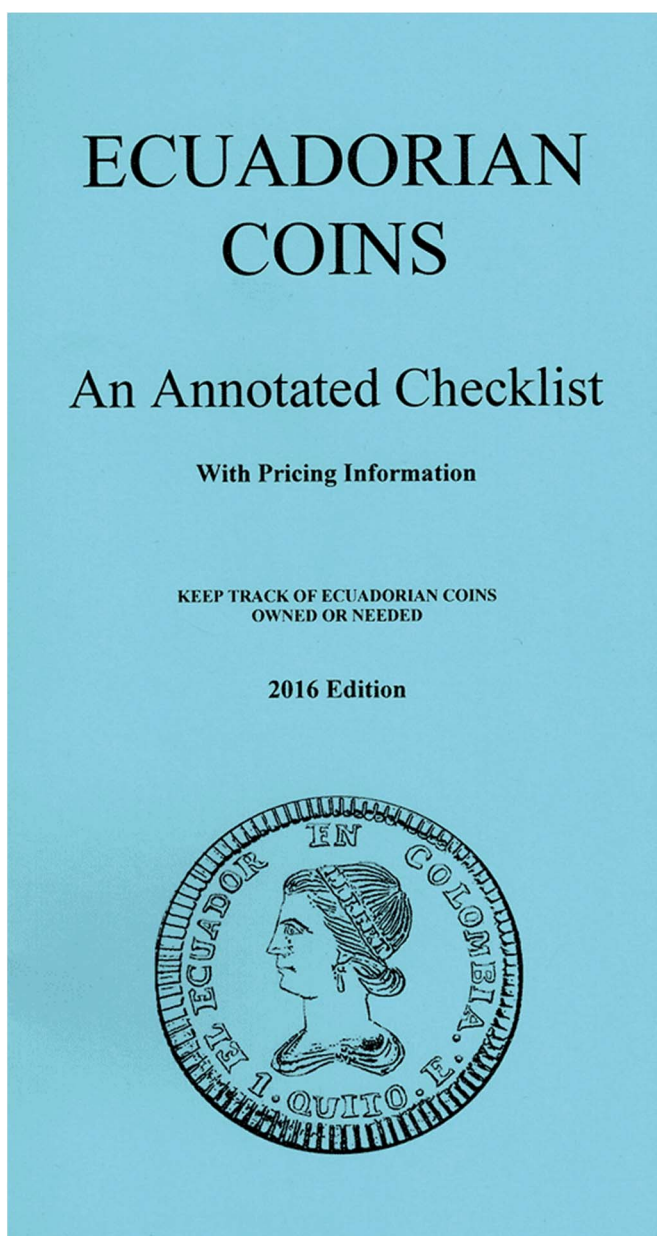
NI

Selected Birmingham Mint Ecuador Proof Coins
A Survey of Public Offerings
Alfred F. Buonaguro, NI #LM137

The recently published *Ecuadorean Coins – An Annotated Checklist* by Dale Seppa, reviewed in the March/April 2016 NI Bulletin is a comprehensive and authoritative compendium on the coinage of Ecuador. Drawing from a variety of sources, some previously unpublished, it brings together in one place a wealth of information about virtually every aspect of Ecuadorian numismatics. As such it is a stimulus for further research. This article presents the results of one such research effort. Specifically, it addresses the proof strikes of Ecuador coins produced by the Birmingham Mint, particularly the 1 Sucre coinage as well as various sets of 1884 dated issues of all denominations. A survey of public appearances is provided in addition to a brief summary of the Birmingham Mint's de-accessioning of its holdings of many of these coins.

Upon the official cessation of coinage operations at the Quito Mint in 1863, Ecuador abandoned attempts to indigenously strike coins. To satisfy its future coinage needs it instead contracted with several foreign Mints. Chief among these was Ralph Heaton's Birmingham Mint. It struck Ecuador's first decimal coinage, the 1872 1 Centavo and 2 Centavos, and Ecuador's last gold coinage, the 1928 1 Condor. During the intervening decades, the Birmingham Mint struck much of Ecuador's coinage, encompassing a broad variety of designs and denominations in various coinage metals.

It apparently was the practice of the Birmingham Mint to create Proof or specimen strikes of much of the coinage it produced and to retain these pieces. Some were put on display in a Birmingham Mint Museum. In the 1970s, the decision was made to sell these holdings and Spinks of London was chosen to disseminate the coins into the numismatic market. Spinks placed many items privately.



The first public appearance was in Paramount's 8-August-1975 ANA auction which contained over 200 of these Birmingham Mint items. Additional offerings occurred over the following years including a sale of 68 Latin American coins, including 21 of Ecuador, in Freeman Craig's 14 November 1984 auction. That auction catalog included a short history of the Birmingham Mint's collection and its dispersal.

Many particularly noteworthy coins were included in this hoard including sets of Ecuador's 1884 coinage. For example, the Paramount 1975 ANA sale included Proof strikes of the Ecuador 1884 1 Decimo (two examples), ½ Sucre and 1 Sucre. The 1884 ½ Decimo and 2 Decimos were also offered with two examples of each in proof-like condition. One of the Proof 1 Decimo coins and the ½ Sucre and 1 Sucre subsequently appeared as a three piece Proof set as Lot #822 in the Christie's 7-November-1985 sale of the Norweb collection. A three piece group of 1884 Proofs consisting of a 1/2 Decimo, 1 Decimo and 2 Decimos was offered as lots 4550, 4574 and 4589, respectively, in the 18-September-2002 Swiss Bank Corporation sale.

A four piece 1884 Proof set consisting of the 1 Decimo, 2 Decimos, 1/2 Sucre and 1 Sucre was offered as Lot #1148 in NASCA's December 1977 sale of the first part of the Wayte Raymond collection. This same set then appeared as Lot #439 in Paramount's portion of the Auction '79 sale conducted on 26-July-1979. Likely the same set was offered as Lot #3436 in a 21-August-1980 sale by Steve Ivy Numismatic Auctions.

Additionally, an 1884 double Proof set, comprising two Proof examples of each of the 1 Decimo, 2 Decimos, 1/2 Sucre and 1 Sucre denominations, in an original plush case, was offered as Lot #546 in Superior's 3-October-1978 sale. The aforementioned Freeman Craig 14-November-1984 sale included, as separate lots, proof examples of all seven 1884 denominations i.e., 1/2 Centavo through 1 Sucre. Another offering of proof examples of all seven 1884 denominations again appeared as individual lots in the 30-October-1981 Christensen sale of the Maulme collection. A five piece 1884 Proof set, consisting of the 1/2 Centavo, 1 Centavo, 1 Decimo, 1/2 Sucre and 1 Sucre was offered as Lots 654, 655 and 656 in the 23 February 1989 Spink-Tasei auction in Singapore. The 25 September 1996 Smith sale of Ecuador coins contained, over individual lots, six different 1884 denominations (1/2 Centavo through 1 Sucre less the 1/2 Sucre) each attributed as from the Birmingham Mint cabinet but curiously not cataloged as Proofs.

Offerings of individual Proof Ecuador 1884 coins have also appeared including at least the 1 Sucre denomination as Lot #117 in Freeman Craig's 27-March-1985 sale, Lot #875 in Ponterio's 18-Augus- 1989 sale and Lot #9339 in Ponterio's 8-August-2009 sale.

Of particular note are proof examples of the 1884 1 Sucre struck in copper. These were known long before the Birmingham Mint de-accessioning, an example having first appeared as Lot #641 in Wayte Raymond's sale on 13-February-1935, via a J. C. Morganthau auction, of the Newcomer collection. Possibly the same example appeared as Lot #216 in the Christensen 30-October-1981 Maulme sale. Additionally, part of Lot #2061 in the Sotheby's sale of the Farouk collection in March 1954 apparently included uniface trial copper proof strikes of the obverse and reverse of the 1884 2 Decimos and the 1/2 Sucre and 1 Sucre as well as a uniface reverse Proof striking of the 1 Decimo. This same seven piece group of uniface copper Proofs was again offered

as Lot #571 in Baldwin's et al. 3-December-1998 New York Sale and then again as Lots 638 through 641 in Ponterio's 12-January-2007 sale. Interestingly, Proofs of the copper 1884 1/2 Centavo and 1 Centavo were listed in Scott's 1913 *Standard Catalogue #2* although that catalog also mistakenly lists an 1884 Proof 5 Centavos, a denomination which does not exist dated 1884. Finally, a crude 1884 1 Sucre struck in lead, catalogued as of uncertain authenticity, was included as Lot #217 in the Christensen Maulme sale.

The Paramount 1975 ANA sale also included a proof example of the Birmingham struck 1888 1 Sucre which later appeared as Lot #823 in the Christie's 7-November-1985 Norweb sale. That same coin then reappeared as Lot #2159 in Stack's 4-December-1996 sale of the Globus collection and then again as Lot #4598 in the aforementioned 18-September-2002 Swiss Bank Corporation sale. Another example appeared as Lot #982 in Superior's 10-December-1993 sale.

No Proof strikes of any other dates of the 1 Sucre series that were struck in Birmingham have been observed in public offerings. However, for completeness it is noted that although not a Birmingham Mint product, a Proof example of the 1889 1 Sucre struck at the Santiago Mint was offered as Lot #1071 in Almanzar's 27-April-1974 sale and apparently the same coin again as Lot #2251 in Almanzar's 12-September-1974 sale. No further public appearances have been traced.

It is the intent of this work to augment the information contained in the new Ecuador checklist which specifically contains a section titled "Decimal Patterns & Unusual" items. The data presented in this paper expands upon the useful information already in that section. Readers are strongly encouraged to both acquire the excellent checklist and to identify any additional information that might expand this survey.

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